

Introduction

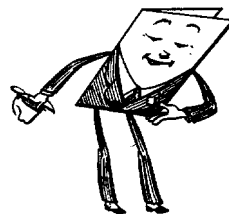
The Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) is Albuquerque's only publicly owned wastewater treatment facility. Everything poured down the sewer goes through the SWRP treatment process before it's discharged into the Rio Grande. On a daily basis, 55 million gallons of wastewater flow from residential, commercial, and industrial users.

The wastewater utility division operates the SWRP and also monitors and has issued permits to approximately 90 mostly industrial businesses in Albuquerque. All other commercial businesses in Albuquerque are not permitted by the City. Consequently, the wastewater utility division needs the cooperation of businesses to maintain their wastewater discharges in compliance with the sewer use ordinance. The SWRP has to meet wastewater treatment standards specified in a permit (called an NPDES permit) issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This Code of Practice is intended to provide labs with a list of practices that will help your business achieve pollution prevention. Your business may already be practicing some forms of pollution prevention through materials management and spill

controls.

The Pollution Prevention Program is non-regulatory and is an educational and research tool that can provide you with information concerning methods of source reduction and pollution prevention for your business. If requested, Pollution Prevention personnel are available for on-site consultations to review your processes and discuss methods of pollution prevention and waste minimization as needed.



The Program can also put you in contact with other non-regulatory services concerning hazardous waste, air quality and storm water, if requested.

The bottom line is that cooperation and voluntary compliance are more effective and less troublesome for both businesses and government agencies.

The goal of the pollution prevention program is to make businesses aware and assist them in reducing pollutants that are of concern to the SWRP.

The benefits of pollution prevention for your business include reduced environmental liability for the generation of wastes and waste



disposal. Additional benefits may be improved employee morale and ideas on how to more efficiently produce the same results with less waste which often leads to cost savings for your business.

Pollution prevention benefits the City collectively because pollutants are removed at the source (before they enter the sewer). Source reduction is the removal of pollutants at the source and has been proven to be the most economical and practical means of wastewater treatment.

The Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) is designed specifically to treat biodegradable municipal wastes. Wastes that are toxic, non-biodegradable, or that contain metals

at high concentrations are not adequately treated by the SWRP. These materials may upset the biological processes at the SWRP and pass through untreated into the Rio Grande. Water quality can be endangered as well as the quality of the biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant. The biosolids are turned into compost and high levels of metals are unacceptable in compost.

Pollution prevention is the reduction of wastes through source control (i.e. the use of process changes, technologies, good operating practices, material substitutions and recycling).

To help ensure your success with pollution prevention, a methodology is outlined in the following section beginning on page 3.



